

From: David W
To: Microsoft ATR,president@whitehouse.gov@inetgw
Date: 1/27/02 11:43pm
Subject: microsoft anti-trust case

CC: cyrusm@harker.org@inetgw

Dear Mr President and U.S. Department of Justice,

I would like to express my opinion concerning the Microsoft anti-trust case. Microsoft's use of its operating systems to gain customers for its web browser, Internet Explorer, instead of Netscape, violates the anti-trust act. When a buyer purchases a non-Macintosh computer, a Windows operating system is included. Bundled with this operating system is Windows web browser Internet Explorer. Because Windows is the main operating system used in America, and Internet Explorer is included with it, Netscape is not given a very large available market. Microsoft should not be allowed to use its almost complete monopoly of the operating system market to gain a monopoly of the web browsing market. Although Microsoft has been sued by many state justice departments, this issue has not been resolved.

Microsoft's payoff of the state justice departments was not a fair punishment for their actions. The small amount of money Microsoft agreed to pay was nothing compared to their large profits. Their agreement to follow antitrust regulations without state interference is ineffective because there is no way to monitor whether or not they are following through with their agreement. Examples of monopolies and trusts that were created illegally can also be seen in history.

One example of a trust that was illegal was John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. Rockefeller used his company's resources to buy out his competition. As he reported to a congressional committee investigating trusts, or industrial combinations, he felt that industrial combinations were a good thing. One main difference between Rockefeller and Bill Gates is that Rockefeller realized that industrial combinations could have a large amount of power which could be abused. He also realized that there would need to be some amount of "state supervision, not of a character to hamper industries."

AOL Time Warner's suit against Microsoft for Netscape's loss of income should be allowed to continue in that Microsoft abused its power by closing the web browser market. The state settlements that Microsoft made should be reconsidered, and the government should continue its investigation into Microsoft's operation system monopoly.

Sincerely,

David Woolsey
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